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**Protocol for supporting 16-17-year-olds who are at risk of homelessness or who are homeless**

**Produced: August 2020**

**Review: August 2022**

To make North Somerset a truly great place for children and young people to thrive; where all have the best possible life and opportunities, including those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and/or have special educational or additional need

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## INTRODUCTION

* 1. The primary objective of this protocol is to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of the young person and to prevent homelessness; returning young people to their family wherever possible. If a return home is not possible, the objective is to find the most suitable accommodation for the young person and to support them to remain in and move on from their accommodation when appropriate.

### Key Principles

* + - The safety and welfare of the young person is paramount;
    - Unless there is clear evidence to the contrary, the starting point will be that all children and young people are best off with their immediate families. Every effort should be made therefore to mediate between young people and their families to negotiate a return home;
    - Where young people are unable or unwilling to return to their immediate families, young people should be supported to explore wider family members and community options where their needs can be met;
    - Young people will be kept informed of progress and decisions made and are engaged in their assessment and plans;
    - Agencies will work together to assess and meet the needs of these young people and share information effectively;
  1. The Judgment in the House of Lords, R(G) v Southwark LBC in May 2009, emphasised the continuing duty of housing and children's services to collaborate in the discharge of their duties to children and young people. This protocol has been jointly developed and agreed by the Housing Department and Children’s Social Care and provides guidance for operational staff within Housing and Children’s Social Care when a young person aged 16/17 approaches the Council reporting to be homeless or threatened with homelessness.

## LEGAL BACKGROUND – LEGISLATION

* 1. In developing this protocol consideration has been given to relevant legislation and case law. This includes the Children Act 1989 and the Housing Act 1996, Part 7 as amended by the Homelessness reduction Act 2017. In outline the legislation requires:

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| **Section 17**  **Children Act 1989 ‘section 17’** | Children Services should provide services for children in need, their families and others.  These services will promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children’s needs. |
| **S20**  **Children Act 1989 ‘s20’** | Children Services should provide accommodation for any child in need who is assessed as homeless as defined in s20. See paragraph 7.4 for exceptions. |

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| **Housing Act 1996 Part 7, as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** | The Housing department has a duty to provide advice and assistance to prevent and relieve homelessness.  A person who is sixteen or seventeen who is not a ‘relevant child’ or a ‘child in need’ has a ‘priority need’ for accommodation. |
| The full legislation is available from <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/> | |

## THE REFERRAL AND SCREENING PROCESS

* 1. A young person may make contact with a number of different agencies or settings when faced with homelessness; Children's Social Care; other statutory or voluntary agencies, school settings, YOS or by self-referral to accommodation providers.
  2. Professionals should support the young person to contact the Homeless Prevention Officer for Young People (HPO-YP) based at the Town Hall on 01934 426621 or in the event that the above officer is unavailable, contact the North Somerset Homeless Prevention Team 01934 426630. General advice and information will be provided by a Homeless Prevention Officer to the young person and their family which may be sufficient to resolve the housing difficulty.
  3. When general advice and information is not sufficient, and the young person remains homeless an assessment will be carried out. The HPO-YP will meet with the young person and their parent / carer on the same day (providing the young person is not at any risk from the parents/carers); to discuss the reasons behind the young person being homeless. If the young person has an allocated Social Worker, they will be invited to attend the meeting to carry out a joint assessment with the HPO-YP. If the young person does not have an allocated Social Worker then a duty social worker from the Referral and Assessment Team will attend to carry out the joint assessment.
  4. The HPO-YP and the social worker will jointly investigate the circumstances in order to establish whether a young person is actually homeless or threatened with homelessness (as defined by Part 7). This will include interviewing a young person’s parents, visiting the family home if necessary and talking to professionals involved with a young person.
  5. The main cause of homelessness among young people is exclusion from their family home. This can happen as a result of overcrowding, a new adult joining the household, tensions between stepparents, young person perceived as not contributing to the household. Other factors that contribute to young people’s homelessness are misuse of alcohol and/or drugs, poor mental health, offending behaviour, lack of employment, education and training, on either the adult or young person’s part, causing family tension and division.

## JOINT HOUSING ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW

* 1. An initial interview with the young person will be conducted by Housing and Children’s Social Care. This will begin the information gathering and assessment process to determine whether a duty is owed to the young person, whether the young person has the capacity to access/will be able to cope in sustainable accommodation provided to agreed criteria, and/or whether the young person can be supported to return home or live with responsible adults in their

wider family and friends network. Parents, family members, friends or advocates may also be present. It is at this point that a joint assessment will take place.

* 1. In general the purpose of the joint interview is to:

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| Identify whether a young person is actually homeless or threatened with homelessness. |
| Prevent a young person becoming homeless or find alternative suitable accommodation before homelessness occurs and |
| Assess the support and care needs of a young person. |

* 1. Areas to be covered in the interview will include:
* The current situation - i.e. why is the young person presenting as homeless?
* Background history, family composition, accommodation history, etc. Whether previously/currently known to Children's Social Care, other agencies, Early Help plan in place?
* Support networks - what family members are there e.g. extended family members, friends that can offer support?
* Confirmation of the age of the young person;
* Resilience and protective factors;
* Vulnerability - are there any immediate concerns re the vulnerability of the young person e.g. learning disabilities, mental health issues, child protection / safeguarding concerns?
* Risks to themselves, others and to staff;
* Information and advice about their entitlements to ensure they are in a position to make informed choices;
* Communication needs e.g. interpreter services;
* The young person's views - what is the young person saying about the need for accommodation?
* The initial interview process will involve gathering information from other agencies as necessary.
* Views of those with Parental Responsibility (PR) (where to do so would not put the young person at risk e.g. forced marriage, trafficking, sexual abuse) - parents and carers will be advised of their parental duties to their child, and that until the young person reaches 18 years of age parents/carers have the full responsibility for accommodating, looking after and caring for their child.
  1. A young person who has no accommodation (or accommodation which is unsafe, or unreasonable for them to occupy), will be interviewed on the day that they make contact. Their parents or carer will need to be present for that meeting, unless there are concerns around safeguarding.
  2. The joint Housing Assessment Interview will inform the decision that a young person is or remains homeless or threatened with homelessness. If the young person is homeless the information will be shared in order to inform the Single Assessment. The young person will be provided with a Personal Housing Plan by the HPO-YP.
  3. Children’s Social Care will record the interview on LCS. Housing Services will record the interview on Housing Jigsaw.

### Safeguarding Considerations

* 1. If at any point during the process it is identified that the young person is at risk of harm, the social worker will follow Children’s Safeguarding procedures.
  2. The young person must be informed of this duty however their consent is not required. Allegations of violence and abuse will be taken seriously and the Children’s Services Safeguarding Procedures followed before any contact is made with the alleged perpetrator(s). Any young person who is facing homelessness should also be considered at risk of CSE and a SERAF completed.

### Home Visit

* 1. A home visit will be carried out if Parents/Carers cannot be contacted or are unable to attend the Council offices for a meeting. The purpose of this visit is to identify the problems within the household. This will involve open discussions between the young person and their parent/s. Housing and Children’s Social Care will work to help find solutions for these problems to prevent the young person becoming homeless. Comprehensive notes of the visit will be made. Housing and Children’s Social Care have separate record keeping systems and will update their records accordingly.
  2. Housing and Children’s Social Care will negotiate a notice period if a parent refuses to allow a young person to remain in their home and if it is safe to do so. The parent/carer will be expected to give their child reasonable notice to leave or give details of safe alternative accommodation for their child to stay.

### Inquiries with Professionals

* 1. To provide a complete picture of the events leading up to a young person becoming homeless, information will be collected from other organisations such as a teacher, support worker, doctor or a police officer. This information will be used for planning the young person’s future housing and support needs as well as allowing an assessment of risk.

## HOMELESSNESS INTERVENTION

* 1. Homelessness may be prevented through offering a young person and their family various housing options, support and advice.

This might include:

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| Mediation by a Family Support Worker or YOT if already known to them |
| Exploring housing with extended family or friends and providing financial support under section 17(6) of the Children Act. |
| Helping a young person access education or employment |

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| Referral to Turning the Tide for edge of care support (this can only be accessed if the young person has a social worker allocated) |
| 1-2-1 work with a Young Person’s Support Worker or NEET worker |
| Accessing support from universal services through an Early Help plan |
| Liaison with other agencies such as CAMHS to meet identified needs |
| Family Group Conference to identify family and friends solutions to the issues causing homelessness |
| Assistance accessing support through College Welfare. |
| Referrals to specific support services i.e. BASE, or Counselling services |
| Helping a young person access supported housing |

### Support Following Reconciliation with Family

* 1. A young person can be provided with support on return to the family home. This can apply where there are concerns about:

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| Repeat homelessness |
| The welfare of the young person |
| The relationships with family members breaking down. |

* 1. Consideration of the Threshold Document will determine whether the support should be provided within Early Help provision or where the young persons identified needs are complex and /or there is a likelihood of significant harm then the support plan will be transferred to the Community Family Service.

## CHILDREN ACT 1989 SINGLE ASSESSMENT

* 1. If it is the conclusion of the Joint Housing Assessment Interview that the young person is homeless and in need of accommodation then accommodation can be provided either by the Housing Department or Children’s Services and there are some significant differences between the type of support that each department can offer.
  2. The Statutory Guidance “Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation”, [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation) [olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation) places a requirement on local authorities to consider homeless 16 and 17 year olds as children in need. The Children Act 1989 says that local authorities are under a duty to help anyone who is a ‘Child in Need’ (anyone under the age of 18 is considered to be a child by the law). Only in exceptional circumstances would a 16 -17 year old who is without accommodation not be in need, for example a child whose home

has been damaged by flood or fire who cannot afford hotel accommodation while it is repaired might possibly not be in need.

* 1. The duty to carry out an assessment of the homeless child’s needs falls on the authority where the child presents – there is no requirement for the child to be ordinarily resident in the authority’s area. An assessment of the young person’s needs will be undertaken by Children’s Social Care, taking into consideration the family and environmental factors within the young person’s extended family network. Children’s Social Care will explain the Single Assessment process and possible outcomes to the young person and provide a leaflet to the young person (appendix B) and their parent/carer (appendix C)
  2. Homelessness prevention work will continue throughout the assessment process.

## PROVISION OF S20 ACCOMMODATION

* 1. The Single Assessment will identify appropriate support services and establish whether there is a legal duty for Children’s Social Care to provide accommodation as set out in s20 (1) (a) to (c) and s20(3) This is referred to as a ‘s20 duty’:
     + There being no person who has parental responsibility for him/her
     + She/he being lost or having been abandoned
     + The person who has been caring for her/him being prevented (whether or not permanently, and for whatever reason) from providing her/him with suitable accommodation or care.
  2. Where options regarding prevention have been explored and not succeeded, a young person who is a child in need of accommodation, will become looked after if they accept an offer of s20 status.
  3. The Care Planning, Placement and Care Review (England) Regulations provide the general duties of the local authority in providing such accommodation. These include regular reviews of the placement, a health assessment to be completed by the designated doctor for looked after children, and completion of a Pathway Plan.
  4. All requests for accommodation under S20 in North Somerset must be made to the People & Communities Assistant Director Support and Safeguarding on the recommendation of the Team Manager.

## RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

* 1. Under S.20(6) of the Children Act, the local authority has a duty to consult with young people about where they want to be accommodated. This may be accommodation provided by Children’s Services or the Housing Department and representatives from these services should ensure that that the young person is informed of their entitlements and receives accurate information about what assistance may be available to them, including from housing services under the Homelessness reduction Act 2017, if they do not become looked after, and how any entitlement for assistance will be determined. In particular, the possible risk of becoming homeless intentionally in the future, and the implications of this for further assistance with accommodation, should be made clear to the young person.
  2. The young person will be asked to sign a document confirming that they do not wish to be accommodated under s20 status and that they have been informed of their rights. A young person may initially refuse to accept s20 but later change their mind. This request must be considered

favourably by Children’s Social Care if the assessment of the young person’s circumstances has not significantly changed.

* 1. Children’s Social Care may continue to provide support and services to a young person under section 17, as a child in need.
  2. A young person who refuses s20 duty will have a competency assessment undertaken. This will be part of the Single Assessment. The following factors are relevant:

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| A young person’s emotional and behavioural development |
| A young person’s capacity to make use of wider resources to manage independent living |

* 1. An assessment may conclude that a young person does not have the capacity to make a decision. This judgement may be at odds with the young person’s wishes, however Children’s Social Care are responsible for undertaking an assessment and considering the welfare needs identified in the single assessment and accommodation which will best meet those needs.
  2. The assessment may confirm that the young person is owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and that the young person is in need under Section17 of the Children Act 1989 but is resourceful and not wishing to become looked after (The Southwark Judgement). The social worker will advise the Homeless Prevention Officer to enable the provision of sustainable accommodation. The young person will therefore be supported under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 but will continue to be provided with accommodation under homelessness legislation.

## HOMELESS REDUCTION ACT 2017 ‘HOMELESS APPLICATION’

* 1. Housing Service will establish whether a young person is owed a duty under the Homelessness reduction Act 2017. Inquiries will be made to decide whether an applicant is:
     + Eligible for Assistance (consideration of Immigration Status)
     + Homeless or Threatened with Homeless within 56 days
     + Has a Priority Need (this includes 16 & 17 year olds)
  2. If a homeless 16 or 17 year old meets all the criteria set out above, the Housing Department will have a duty to accommodate, however the duty within the Children Act has primacy over the Housing Act in providing for children in need.
  3. Housing Services will decide what duty (if any) is owed to the young person. A young person may be owed the following duties:

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| --- |
| To ensure that accommodation is available for his/her occupation |
| To take reasonable steps to secure that accommodation does not cease to be available for his/her occupation |
| To ensure accommodation is available for occupation for such period as will give the young person a reasonable opportunity of securing accommodation for his occupation |
| To provide advice and assistance in any attempt the young person makes to secure accommodation becomes available for his/her occupation |

## EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

* 1. Children’s Social Care will only offer emergency accommodation under s20 following a Joint Housing Assessment Interview and Single Assessment. Emergency accommodation will be authorised by People & Communities Assistant Director, Support and Safeguarding.
  2. Housing Services will provide accommodation under s188 of the Housing Act 1996 pending the outcome of a homeless application if they have reason to believe that an applicant may be homeless, eligible for assistance and have a priority need. Accommodation may also be provided for a young person owed another housing duty, such as section 193 (main homeless duty) or 190 (duties to person who is intentionally homeless).
  3. The following accommodation may be considered dependant of the circumstances of the young person and taking account what is available in the district at that time.

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| --- |
| Foster Care |
| Commissioned Temporary Accommodation |
| North Somerset Nightstop |
| Crash Pads |

* 1. Any accommodation provided by either Children’s Social Care or by Housing under Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 must be suitable for the applicant’s needs. Bed and breakfast is not suitable for homeless 16 – 17 year olds except in exceptional circumstances with prior agreement from the Assistant Director of Social Care or Head of Housing.

### Young Person Homeless on the Night

* 1. A young person who is unable to return home can be provided with emergency accommodation. The decision on whether to provide accommodation will rest with Housing and Children’s Social Care. A Joint Housing Assessment Interview will be undertaken and inquiries made with the young person’s parents. If time allows attending the family home should be the preferred choice. If however the young person is from out of area, a telephone call may have to be acceptable.
  2. If the officers believe a young person may be homeless, emergency accommodation may be provided pending the outcome of the Single Assessment or Homeless Application. The assessment should evidence that the young person is able to live independently, care for themselves and won’t be influenced by peer pressure or at risk of Child sexual exploitation. This accommodation will usually be provided under s188 Housing Act 1996.
  3. If the young person is particularly vulnerable, and, if placed into emergency supported housing could be at risk of becoming more vulnerable, the People and Communities Assistant Director, Support and Safeguarding should be requested to accommodate the young person under s20.

### Accommodation for Families

* 1. A young person who is part of a family unit (has a partner and/or child) should be considered for family accommodation. This can include private rented accommodation, commissioned temporary accommodation or Teenage Parent housing with Alliance Homes. When there is violence or abuse or suspicion of either, this option may not be appropriate.
  2. The family will receive ongoing visiting support from Children’s Social Care around aspects such as, parenting, independent living skills, education and health and wellbeing. Referrals can also be made to floating support services.

### Responsibility

* 1. To decide whether Housing or Children’s Social Care is responsible for providing emergency accommodation and meeting the associated costs the following will apply:

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| --- | --- |
| Pending the outcome of the Single Assessment | Housing Services |
| S20 Duty | Children’s Services |
| Homeless Relief Duty. | Housing Services |
| Section 193 Duty (main Housing duty) | Housing Services |

10.1 A young person who is accommodated under s20 will not be eligible for welfare benefits, including housing benefit.

10.12 A young person who is accommodated under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 will be eligible for welfare benefits, including housing benefit.

## CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HOUSING AND CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE

* 1. The Housing Service is the referring body for vacancies in commissioned temporary accommodation.
  2. Children’s Services is the referring body for vacancies in foster care.
  3. Housing services can refer to Nightstop or emergency temporary accommodation, however in the case of emergency accommodation, agreement on who will fund should be made before a placement is agreed
  4. In the exercise of the discharge of their functions, both services will provide reasonable assistance to each other. This may include:

|  |
| --- |
| Providing accommodation |
| Helping to arrange accommodation |

## SUSPICION OF A FRAUDULENT CLAIM

* 1. An applicant will be advised of the consequences of making a false statement. This is set out in section 214 of the Housing Act 1996, Part 7.
  2. The Homeless Prevention Manager will investigate the application and decide whether a fraudulent claim has been made. A decision to prosecute will be made in partnership with Legal Services.

## LOCAL CONNECTION TO NORTH SOMERSET

* 1. Housing and Children’s Social care will not refuse to accept a referral or make inquiries on the basis of local connection. However, a young person who does not have a connection with North Somerset should be advised that they may be referred back to an area where a local connection exists (unless there is a risk of violence).

The duty to carry out the assessment of the homeless child’s needs falls on the authority where the child presents – there is no requirement for the child to be ordinarily resident in the authority’s area. The statutory guidance states that young people requesting assistance from social care, must not be ‘passed from pillar to post while authorities determine where he or she comes from’.

## NO SOCIAL SERVICES OR HOUSING DUTY

* 1. Infrequently a young person may be homeless but neither owed a duty to provide accommodation long term under the Children Act 1989 or Homeless Reduction Act 2017. This can apply if:

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| --- |
| A young person refuses a s20 duty |
| A young person is intentionally homeless as defined s190 Part 7, Housing Act 1996 |

* 1. An applicant who has previously refused a s20 duty should receive a further assessment in light of their change of circumstances. This will give a young person a chance to reconsider and accept a s20 duty.
  2. If the young person is deemed to be intentionally homeless under the Housing Act 1996, Housing will not continue to provide accommodation.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

* 1. Housing Services and Children Social Care have separate recording systems and will update their computer systems accordingly.

## DISPUTES

* 1. In the event of a disagreement between Housing and Children’s Social Care, Senior Managers in each department will discuss and agree a suitable outcome.

## THE PROTOCOL REVIEW

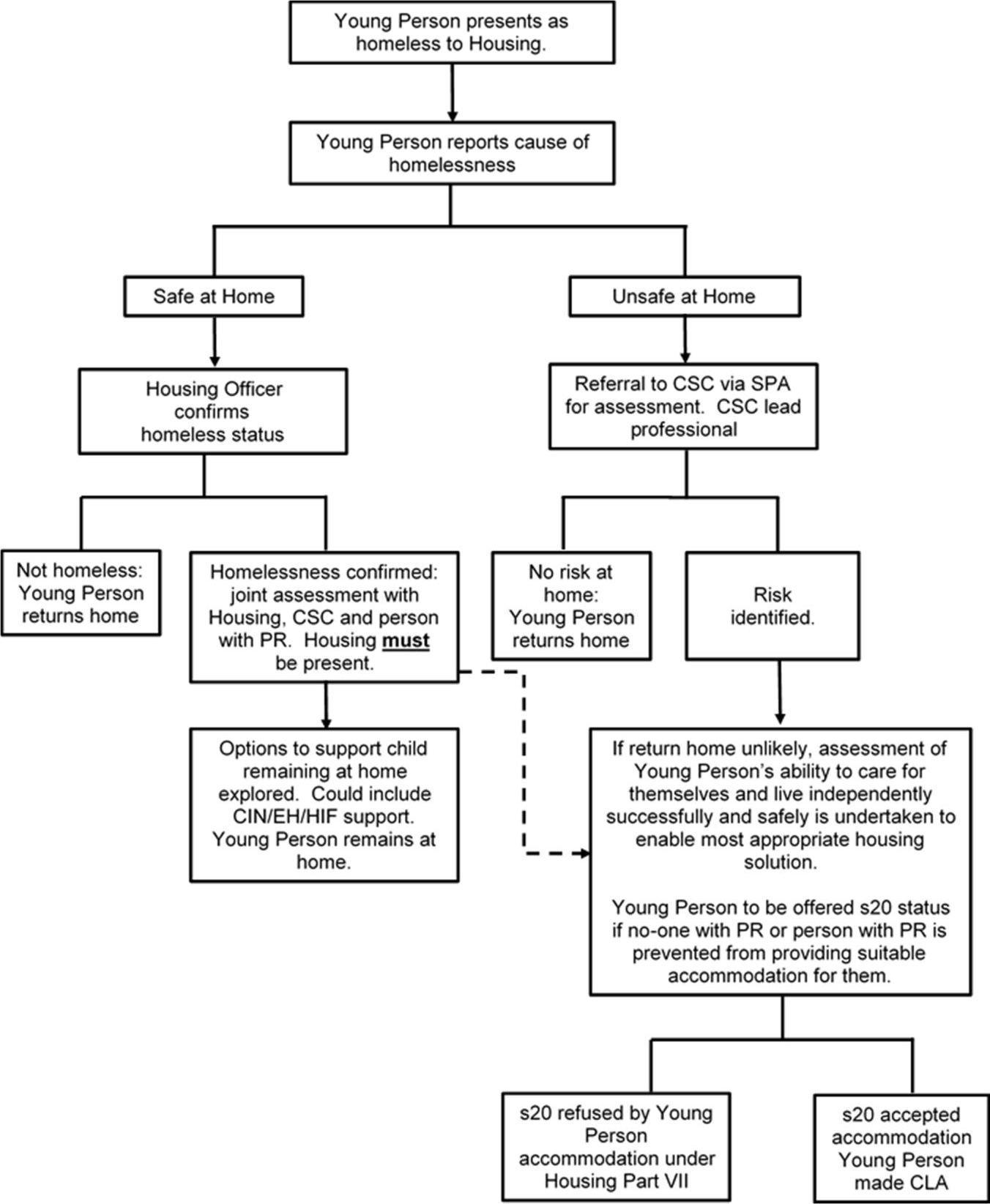
* 1. This protocol will be reviewed annually.

## INFORMATION SHARING

* 1. Young people will be informed that their records will be kept both by Housing and by Children’s Services, and the information shared between the services. The Young Person will be asked to sign an authorisation form, specifically for this, when having their joint assessment, this will then give permission for the information to be shared.

**APPENDIX A**

**PROCESS FLOWCHART**



**APPENDIX B**

**LETTER FOR HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE**

Dear

You came in to see us on the xxxx because you were either homeless or about to become homeless. The next step is for you to meet with our Homeless Prevention Officer for Young People and a social worker. They will help you find somewhere to live.

We want to help. Our priority is to make sure that you are not homeless.

As you are under 18 years of age, your parents still have a legal responsibility for you. For this reason, we may need to speak to your parents and carry out a home visit. Wherever possible, we will work with your parents or guardian to see if there is anything we can do to help to prevent you becoming homeless or assist you in returning home. It is true that sometime just talking things through with another person can make a difference. Do not worry, however, as we will talk to you first, before taking any action, to make sure that we fully understand the situation.

If you can stay at home for a short time, but it is clear the best way forward for you is to move out, we will help you do this in a planned way, rather than as an emergency.

You are not alone: the Homeless Prevention Officer and your Social Worker will help you every step of the way. It is important you work closely with them so they can help you and make sure you have somewhere safe to live.

If you cannot go home, we may offer you temporary accommodation, while we work out a longer- term plan. This might be in someone’s home, where you would stay as a guest. This is called ‘Nightstop’. Another possibility is that it might be in shared, supported housing. Unfortunately, this might not be in the area of your choice or where you are currently living. It will depend on the availability of accommodation on the day.

Your Social Worker and Homeless Prevention Officer will carry out a ‘joint assessment’ with you and your parents. A decision will be made about whether you are a “child in need of care” by the Local Authority. Do not worry, this will be explained to you in more detail by those who are supporting you. This decision will be made with you; you will need to agree to us “looking after you” under what is called Section 20 of the Children’s Act 1989.

There will be some practical details, which we will need to sort out. For example, we will need to see 3 forms of identification. If you are pregnant, we will need confirmation of this. If you do not have these forms of identification, please still come and talk to us and we will see how we can help.

We will help you find somewhere safe to stay and help you with anything else that is worrying you.

## APPENDIX C

**LEAFLET FOR PARENTS**

Information for Parents/Carers or Guardians of children presenting as homeless or in housing crisis.

As your child is under 18 years of age you still have parental responsibility for them and therefore abandoning them to the care of the Council is not an option for you even if things are difficult at home.

Our Housing and Social Care staff will talk to you and look at the reason your child has presented as homeless or in housing crisis and work with you to help them to return home. You will be invited to a meeting with the young person to discuss the family breakdown and offer mediation. A meeting will be arranged between you, a housing officer and children’s social care to look at support options to resolve the crisis. To help you with this we will offer the support of a Young Person’s Support Worker from Children and Young People’s Services.

In the first instance we will ask you to seek support from other family members of friends of the family to help, until the issues can be resolved. If however it becomes necessary to accommodate your child for a short term this could be a foster placement, Nightstop (which is with a host in their home) or sometimes into Supported Housing. This may be outside of North Somerset, depending on availability on the day.

If your child is not in education, employment or training they will be referred to a personal advisor from the Youth Employment Service. They will be expected to fully engage with these support workers and participate in any programme of support.

If your issues have arisen due to financial problems in the family home your child can also be referred to the Under 18’s Advisor at the Job Centre. We may be able to assist you with food vouchers or financial assistance, if it is deemed necessary, to support you until the appropriate benefits have been set up or the issues are resolved.

We can also liaise with the Housing Benefit department if the reason your child cannot remain at home is due to Housing Benefit problems or payments. National changes in Housing Benefit regulations from April 2013 mean that if you live in social housing you will lose 14% of your housing benefit payment where you under-occupy your property by one bedroom, or 25% where you under-occupy by two bedrooms. Therefore by not having your child living with your family at home could make your accommodation unaffordable.

Any Child Benefit you receive can remain in payment for up to 8 weeks whilst we work to resolve your child’s housing situation. During this period if your child is unable to remain in the family home we expect this Child Benefit to be paid over to your child as part of their ongoing support. [www.gov.uk/child-benefit-child-lives-with-someone-else](http://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-child-lives-with-someone-else)

## APPENDIX D

### Decision to refuse section 20 assistance under Children Act 1989

I have received the leaflet for homeless young people and the two different housing options have been explained to me. I understand the different options available to me and at this time I wish to refuse section 20 assistance of the Children Act 1989.

I also understand that if I refuse section 20 assistance and am housed under Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 duties and then subsequently change my mind and want section 20 assistance it should be provided. The Local Authority wish to remind you that this option is available to you.

I also understand that if I accept section 20 assistance, I have the right to refuse it at a later date and ask for help under the Housing Act. However, I have been advised of the disadvantages of taking this course but if I do so I can then change my mind and have an entitlement to return to section 20 assistance.

Name Printed:

Signed: young person date:

Signed: social worker date: